

The SANGUINIST

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THE OLD YEAR

Despite the revelry that usually accompanies the opening days of a new year, we're old-fashioned enough to be rather serious these first few days of 1941. You know, fellows, when some of us look over the past year, we have to admit that it wasn't so happy as we might have made it.

We can't see the reason immediately—dad was regular with the long green, the only one still cares, and the scholastic standing was satisfactory. In fact, most of the things we see as we look over the year 1940 ran pretty smoothly. Was it, then, something that we can't see? Was it God?

Was it the fact that we, in our quest for satisfaction from the material things of life, forget the spiritual, the most important? Were we "penny-wise and dollar-follish?" There is no question about it. Unless we were fair to ourselves by being fair to God, last year wasn't as happy as it might have been.

BALANCE THE BOOKS

Suppose that we balance the books just as business houses do. Certainly, in this most important business of saving our immortal souls (along side of which enterprise, every commercial business is just a trifle) we should keep a very close check. Under three headings, let's begin to list a few a few of the activities that we remember from last year:

ALL PROFIT (collected in heaven)	NO PROFIT OR LOSS (bad accounts)	ALL LOSS (settled in Purg. or....)
() Number of Communion		() Actual graces rejected.
() Masses attended devoutly.	() Number of Masses attended with no devotion.	() Masses missed.
() Number of tasks offered to God's Honor.	() Tasks done with no thought of God.	() Sinful deeds that have offended God.
() Average number of ejaculations said daily.		() Dirty Jokes told, bad language.
() Spiritual Books read.		() Books read that were approximate occasions of sin. Lewd magazines.
() Money given to the poor.	() Money wasted.	() Money spent in sin.

We could go on, but that's enough to start us off — or have we, perhaps, found it too embarrassing already? Did we have trouble filling the first column, no trouble for the second and the third? If we did, it's time that we take off the wool that we have pulled over our own eyes.

Have we slipped back in our weaker points? — honesty, purity of life, purity of language. Let's face the facts of what some of us are coming to and change. The Precious Blood of Christ has earned for us the Actual Graces we need for better lives.

THE YEAR AHEAD — — — — — THE QUEEN'S WORK

Thank God for the title "The New Year"! It is a term of such optimism and confidence and strength. The old year in the guise of a dying old man totters off. The new year we welcome with all the joy accorded a baby with its innocence, its promise of powers for good, its nearness to God — from Whom it comes.

The very phrase The New Year is a reminder of man's endless opportunities. The old year with its disappointments and failures is done. The new year has infinite possibilities for success and achievement and will come to its conclusion strong and vigorous, rich in development, proud in record of things done well.

Although at the end of a year my thoughts turn to what others have done to me
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THE YEAR AHEAD (continued)

and to the months, at the beginning of a year my resolutions show my conviction that the whole success or failure of the coming year depends on me.. always, of course, with God.

Which is entirely true. The year 1941 is mine to shape. What the other chap does or doesn't do needn't affect me. There are men who are becoming saints in concentration camps. There are criminals in penitentiaries who are acting as Christ's missionaries among their fellows. In every era there have been soldier saints in armies. There are failures which will rank as successes in God's eternal counting.

Too easily do I let the success of a year depend on some other person -- a person as remote as Hitler or as near as my dance partner. All the while it is God and I alone who determine my year's success. COME WHAT MAY IN WORLD EVENTS OR PERSONAL PROBLEMS, GOD AND I WILL MAKE 1941 HIS KIND OF A TRIUMPHANT ACHIEVEMENT!

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Prayers:

For the repose of the soul of the father of Michael Homco.

. Repose of the soul of the Aunt of Fathers Roy and Thomas Grotenrath.